

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action mailed January 29, 2007. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the application as amended and in view of the remarks herein are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter/Double Patenting

Applicant notes, with appreciation, the indicated allowability of claims 45-46 and 49-72. In particular, in paragraph 15 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicated claims 45-46 and 49-72 would be allowable if appropriate terminal disclaimers were filed to overcome the double-patenting rejections set forth in the Official Action. Claims 45-139 were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over certain claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,946,119, 6,556,326 and 6,744,992. Applicant encloses herewith appropriate terminal disclaimers to obviate these double-patenting rejections.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 73-78, 81-96, 98- 139 and 142-143 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or U.S.C. § 103(a). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Applicant submits all of the presently pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies, or additional fees are payable, please charge, or credit any overpayment to, our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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